



**Transcript for the March 22, 2012, Webchat
Nonimmigrant Visas**

Q: I won in DV lottery 2012 when I was a student in Malaysia. Now I'm in the UK and I'm doing my Master degree. I have not received a letter from the Embassy, I just checked my application status from DV Lottery website. Should I just bring the copy of my appointment date?

A: We regret that we are unable to answer case-specific inquiries in this web-chat. Please call the Operator Assisted Information Service (09042-450-100, £1.23/min plus network extras) to pursue your inquiry.

Q: I am a UK resident married to a British citizen and I have my indefinite leave to remain in the UK. I want to travel with my husband for holiday to the US. What supporting documents do I need to show to the embassy?

A: Information about applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa, including documents required, can be found on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>. While you may bring any documents that you believe help to demonstrate your eligibility to receive a visa, please note that applying for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa is not primarily a document based process. The consular officer will only review supporting documents if they are required to make a determination. Please visit our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> for further information.

Q: I have a very close friend and her family in America. I went last yr for 3 months and they want me to come back but stay longer - for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. I want to go about June. Do u think I will have any problems getting a visa to go from June to January?

A: Based on the information you have furnished, you should apply for a B-2 (tourist) visa. We strongly recommend that applicants do not purchase tickets or make irrevocable travel plans unless they are in possession of their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for admission to the United States, including the length of any stay, can only be made by U.S. immigration officials at the Port of Entry. No assurances can be given in advance.

Q: In Sep 2009 I applied for a visa for holiday but visa was refused under section 214(b). That time I have had UK indefinite leave to remain visa with my Mongolian passport. Now I'm a UK citizen and I hold the British passport. If I going to USA for holiday am I eligible to enter the United States visa free under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and apply for ESTA?

A: Individuals that have been refused a visa under Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act are not prohibited from travelling under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program, if they are otherwise eligible to do so. However, they are required to declare the previous visa refusal when registering under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA), regardless of their nationality at the time of the refusal. Please visit <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp3.html> for information and a Visa Waiver Wizard to help you determine if you are eligible to travel visa free.



Q: I am citizen of Maldives currently residing in Glasgow/UK. I want to apply for a tourist visa of USA. What's the procedure?

A: Please visit <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html> for information about applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa. You may also wish to review our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> for further information.

Q: I will like to renew my visa that will expire on April 2012. What form do I use?

A: It is not possible to renew a U.S. visa, per se. Please visit <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html> for information about applying for a new visa.

Q: Must a DS-160 confirmation form be sent to the U.S. Embassy before your appointment, or should I just bring it in on the day?

A: You should bring a print-out of the confirmation page of your Form DS-160 with you on the day of your visa interview.

Q: I want to return to the US with a visitor visa. Can I return if I just come back from the US cause I overstayed my stay?

A: Individuals that have overstayed in the United States are no longer eligible to travel visa free under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program at any time. In addition, if they held a U.S. visa at the time of the overstay, that visa is no longer valid. To schedule an appointment for a visa interview, please call the Operator Assisted Information Service (09042-450-100, £1.23/min plus network extras).

Q: I am an international student undergoing my foundation program to be completed in June. I have admission to study for my Bachelor program with Oklahoma State University. Am I ok to apply for my visa here in the UK?

A: Information about applying for an F-1 (student) visa can be found on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/students.html>. As with all nonimmigrants, you will be required to establish your eligibility for a visa under Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Applicants typically confirm that they are bona fide visitors by demonstrating sufficiently strong social, economic, and financial ties to their place of residence to compel them to depart the United States after a brief visit.

Q: My daughter is studying in London and she holds a Chinese passport. Her UK visa is 5 years. She has joined the school USA trip in July and we have paid all the trip fees. But as China is not one of the Visa Waiver countries, she has to apply in person here. Would you please tell me what documents she must provide for her visa? She is 14 years old. What else shall we provide besides: passport, school letter, itinerary, photo?

A: Information about applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa, including required documents, can be found on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>. As your daughter is under 18, if



you or another parent or guardian wish to accompany her to her visa interview, please notify the Operator Assisted Information Service when you schedule the appointment.

Q: I applied for a nonimmigrant visa and subsequently had an interview at the London embassy in November 2011. I am still waiting to hear if my application is successful. It has been 19 weeks now and I wondered if there was a way of checking the status of my application?

A: We regret that we are unable to answer case-specific inquiries in this web-chat. Please call the Operator Assisted Information Service (09042-450-100, £1.23/min plus network extras) to pursue your inquiry.

Q: Hi I am planning to visit the States for a 2 week family holiday in Florida from the 6th July 2012. I wanted to know if I will be allowed entry as I have a past criminal record from 20yrs ago, this was nothing serious just petty crime... I haven't been in any trouble since dating back 20yrs ago. I would be very grateful if you could please let me know if I can gain entry into the United States. Many thanks for your help.

A: Anyone that has ever been arrested, convicted or caution, regardless of when or why, should apply for a visa if they wish to visit the United States. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa is entirely a matter for the adjudicating consular officer following an interview. Please call the Operator Assisted Information Service (09042-450-100, £1.23/min plus network extras) to schedule an appointment.

As no assurances can be given in advance and as processing varies in each case, we strongly recommend that applicants apply well in advance and that they do not purchase tickets or make irrevocable travel plans unless they are in possession of their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.

Q: I was deported from USA in 2003 because of false document and my fingerprint was taken then, when can I apply to come to USA again if I have my valid document?

A: You are not prohibited from applying for a visa at any time. If a period of exclusion applies in your case, a waiver of ineligibility will be required and you will be advised further on the day of your visa interview. To schedule an appointment for a visa interview, please call the Operator Assisted Information Service (09042-450-100, £1.23/min plus network extras).

Q: My husband and myself landed in Miami in 1996 and my husband was detained for 2hrs and questioned about himself and his family. They came from Ireland, he was born in UK. It was very intimidating. He has a cousin same name and birthday, we think it was mistaken identity. We are going to Miami in 2013. We have ESTA, would you think we need anything else? We were not refused entry.

A: Final determination on every individual's eligibility for admission to the United States is made by U.S. immigration officials at the Port of Entry. All travelers are required to establish their eligibility for admission and are subject to questioning. No assurances can be given in advance.



Anyone that wishes to pursue concerns regarding a delay at a U.S. Port of Entry should visit <http://www.dhs.gov/trip> for information about the Department of Homeland Security's Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (DHS TRIP).

Q: Hello, I have accepted an internship with the American Eagle Foundation, based in Pigeon Forge TN, for summer 2012. I will be flying in to the US on July 3rd, and departing for London again on September 28th. Firstly, I am unsure whether I need to apply for a J-1 visa or a H-1, as the internship/organisation is not involved in any exchange program. Secondly, my family wish to plan a vacation to New York for a maximum of 6 nights during December 2012 (from the 22nd of December). Seeing as I will have been back in the UK following my internship for 84 days, will I be eligible to travel to New York with my family under a visa waiver?

A: If you have inquiries after reviewing our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/interns.html> , please call our Operator Assisted Information Service on (09042-450-100, £1.23/min plus network extras) in order to discuss the internship that you wish to undertake in more detail.

Q: I am planning to go and work in the US in a summer camp from June 2012 until August 2012. I will enter the country with a J1 visa. However, I might also go on an exchange at the San Francisco Art Institute from September until December 2012. I will only know if I am accepted in June while I'll be working. Could I make a F1 (exchange student visa) visa in the US or do I have to leave the country and go to either Mexico or Canada ?

A: If the purpose of your visit changes while you are in the United States, you should contact the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regarding applying for a change of status. Contact details can be found on their website at <http://www.uscis.gov>

Q: Later this year i am travelling to the US to board a cruise ship to get married. I will be travelling to the Caribbean first for a few days, then onto the US from there for 2 weeks. I will then travel back to the Caribbean where I live part time, then back to the UK where I work. My question is am I still eligible to travel under the visa waiver scheme as I am a British citizen and have always held a British passport, or would I need to apply for a US visa?

A: You should contact the cruise company to establish if the vessel you will be traveling on participates in the Visa Waiver Program. If so, please visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp3.html> for information and a Visa Waiver Wizard to help you determine if you are eligible to travel visa free. If so, you will require a valid registration under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA). Please see <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> for details.

Q: I don't know if this would be considered a case study question but i was just wondering if you are a exchange student going over to the states what type of visa would you apply for which allows you to work at a part time job which isn't on campus?

A: Please call the Operator Assisted Information Service (09042-450-100, £1.23/min plus network extras) to provide further details about your purpose of travel to the United States.



Q: Hi, I applied for a visa back last year to go to America on my fiancé's birthday to ask her to marry me. My visa was granted later than when we were going on holiday and it only lasts a year. I am now hoping to take her to New York, Vegas and Mexico but my visa will run out. When I applied for my visa, because I had criminal conviction, drink driving and another conviction under the influence I had to pay for a medical, I was wondering will I need to pay for another medical if I apply again because I live so far from embassy the cost of whole trip was nearly £1000 including medical. I know I need a new police report but I'm hoping I don't need to pay the cost of overnight stay and medical, thanks for your time.

A: Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa is entirely a matter for the adjudicating consular officer, who may request additional information if necessary to make that determination. Therefore, you will be advised on the day of your interview whether or not a medical examination is required in your case.

As no assurances can be given in advance and as processing varies in each case, we strongly recommend that applicants do not purchase tickets or make irrevocable travel plans unless they are in possession of their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.

Q: I am applying to renew my E-2 treaty investor visa. I have completed the DS-160 online application form, what next?, do I make an appointment for interview or do I wait to be informed of what documentation I need to submit or do I just send in my supporting documentation and hope I've covered all the bases?

A: If you wish to apply for an E-2 (Treaty Investor) visa, you should carefully review our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/e.html> with particular reference to the section entitled 'Overview of the process' for information about how to submit your application.

Q: Dear Sirs, I am currently in the process of applying for an F-1 visa in order to study abroad at an American University for a full academic year starting at the end of August. Am I able to return home to the UK for the Christmas holidays sometime in December and then re-enter the United States come January without re-applying for another visa? Thank-you for your advice.

A: If you depart the United States for less than five months and then wish to apply for readmission to resume your studies, you may do so providing your F-1 visa remains valid on the date of travel. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa, including the validity period of that visa, will be a matter for the adjudicating consular officer following your visa interview.

Q: What's the most common (and preferably most efficient) way for an early 20s UK resident, to finance a four year undergraduate course at an American college?

A: Please visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/students.html> which has links to resources that may be of assistance to you, such as the Fulbright Commission, eduPASS, the Institute for International Education and the U.S. Department of State's Education USA website.

Q: A student has a Romanian visa which is valid until end of August 2012. She will be visiting the USA en route to Costa Rica in May. As a Romanian she is required to obtain a visa for the USA,



however, she has had to renew her passport to comply with regulations in Costa Rica requiring her passport be valid for 6 months after her departure in June. Whilst waiting for her new Romanian passport she still has her old passport. If she obtains a visa in her old passport and is then asked to surrender this when the new passport arrives can the visa be transferred over? If she can keep both her old passport together with her new one would this cause problems when she entered and left the USA?

A: The Nonimmigrant Visa Unit cannot issue a visa into a passport that is no longer valid. Based on the information you have furnished, it appears that the student should await receipt of her new passport before applying for a visa.

Final determination on each individual's eligibility for admission to the United States is entirely a matter for U.S. immigration officials at the U.S. Port of Entry. No assurances can be given in advance.

Q: I have a valid B1/B2 visa on my Indian passport which i have now surrendered to the Indian embassy as i have now obtained British Citizenship and hence have a British passport. Please could you advise if I need to notify the U.S. Embassy to cancel my existing visa on the Cancelled Indian Passport before i apply for the ESTA.

A: If your Indian passport is no longer valid and you are traveling with a passport of a different nationality, then your U.S. visa is no longer valid for travel. Note that the Nonimmigrant Visa Unit does not routinely cancel visas. Please visit <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp3.html> for information and a Visa Waiver Wizard to help you determine if you are eligible to travel visa free. If not, you should apply for a new visa if you wish to visit the United States.

Q: Hi, I am a UK resident and currently hold a working holiday visa for Australia and wondered if there is a similar visa opportunity for America? Looking at the visa options on the website there is not one I would qualify for as I don't have any relatives in America or any specific skill/employment offer. I would just be looking to work and travel for up to one year. Thanks a lot.

A: In general, U.S. work visas are issued based on a specific offer of employment. Please see our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/work.html> for information about employment based nonimmigrant visas.

Q: Hello I have a US Visa which will expire in a few months, may I then apply for an ESTA? I needed the visa to arrive in USA by private boat, which is now no longer required.

A: If you will be traveling to the United States by air or sea carrier that participates in the Visa Waiver Program, or by land from Canada or Mexico, then please visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp3.html> for information and a Visa Waiver Wizard to help you determine if you are otherwise eligible to travel visa free.

Q: I will be i US at Camp America this summer - how can I get my student visa sorted if I'm in States & not in London for interview?



A: You may wish to note that you can apply for a J-1 and an F-1 visa at a single visa interview, providing that you specify both visa categories on your DS-160 application form, pay two Machine Readable Visa (MRV) fees and demonstrate at interview that your principal purpose of travel on each occasion will be different. If you wish to apply for two different categories of visa at one interview, you should pay one MRV fee when you call the Operator Assisted Information Service to schedule your visa interview, and the other MRV fee should be paid at the Embassy on the day of your visa interview.

Please note that an individual will not be issued two different visas concurrently if their intention is to change their primary activity while in the United States i.e. without first departing the country and reapplying for admission on the basis of their new primary purpose of travel.

Q: How big are the implications on the processing times on student visas during Olympics?

A: As nonimmigrant visa services will be limited during July and August, we recommend that applicants apply well in advance of their proposed travel. Once they are in possession of the requisite documentation as outlined on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>, F-1 (student) visa applicants can apply up to 120 days before the start of their program and J-1 applicants can begin the application process as soon as they are able to do so.

Q: I am currently on a J1 visa. I will need to renew my visa this June. My program is for 5 years. Do the US embassy ever issue a J1 visa stamp in the passport with a 5yr expiration, or is it only ever for 1 year at a time?

A: Final determination on each individual's eligibility for a visa, including the terms of any visa, is entirely a matter for the adjudicating consular officer following an interview.

Q: When should UK students who are due to go on exchange (for 1 semester) to the US next January (2013) start applying for a Visa?

A: If you are applying for a J visa you can begin the application process as soon as you have your DS-2019 and have paid your SEVIS fee. If you are applying for an F you can apply up to 120 days in advance. If you are studying abroad in January 2013 you would most likely begin the application process in the Fall.

Q: Can I enter the US with a J1 visa leave the country for Mexico or Canada and then enter again 1 or 2 weeks after with a F1 visa ?

A: If you wish to depart the United States and then subsequently travel to a U.S. Port of Entry to apply for admission for new purpose of travel, you may do so providing you have a valid visa for that purpose. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for admission to the United States on each occasion is entirely a matter for U.S. immigration officers at the Port of Entry.

Q: I am travelling to Houston, TX on a J-1 visa in the summer to study at law school for one year. I am not yet married to my fiancé and presume this means he will not be eligible for a J-2 visa? We are planning on applying for a B-2 visa so that he can accompany me whilst I am in Texas. I have been told that the B-2 visa will only be issued for an initial period of 6 months and



that this cannot be amended until we are in Texas - I have also read though that USCIS do not look favourably on extensions where it seems that the applicant has always intended to stay longer than the initial 6 month period - what is the best course of action we can take in relation to the B-2 visa?

A: A partner or fiancé is not eligible to apply for a J-2 visa, so if your fiancé wishes to accompany you to the United States, he will be required to apply for a B-2 (tourist) visa. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for admission to the United States, including the authorized period of stay, is a matter for U.S. immigration officials at the U.S. Port of Entry and no assurances can be given in advance. As with all visitors, your fiancé will be required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of U.S. immigration officers that he is a bona fide visitor rather than an intending immigrant.

Q: Hi, I'm a Ugandan citizen currently living in the uk. I have been offered a job in the states and will require a J1 visa. Can i apply for this at the embassy in London? I am not a UK permanent residence and my current residence permit expires in august. Do I have to go to Kampala to apply for the j1? Also do i have to wait for the DS-2019 before i book an appointment with your Embassy?

A: Information about applying for a J-1 visa is available on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/exchange.html> You may also wish to review our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772>

Q: Hey, I am a Chinese student studying in the University of Manchester and am going to America as an exchange student. Can I apply for my visa here in the UK? What should I do in preparation?

A: Anyone who is physically present in the UK can apply for their visa in London. For more information about applying for a visa in the UK as a non-British citizen, check our blog <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772>

Q: Would just like to verify exactly what forms I need to fill in to apply for a waiver of permanent ineligibility to enter the US - I already have forms for the ACRO & Subject Access Statement

A: If a waiver of ineligibility is required in your case, you will be advised further on the day of your visa interview.

Q: I'm Malaysian, currently further study in UK and planning to visit one of my friends in Buffalo, USA. Firstly, i want to know the bank statement is based on the account I have in UK or Malaysia? Secondly, how much do I have if I plan to visit him for a week time? Thirdly, how long is the visa valid, is it still remain the same as 10 years?

A: Information about applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa is available on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html> While you may bring any documents that you believe help to demonstrate your eligibility to receive a visa, there is no set form that such evidence must take. Please also note that applying for a U.S. nonimmigrant visa is not primarily a document based process. The consular officer will review supporting documents if they are



required to make a decision. Final determination on each applicant's eligibility for a visa, and the terms of any visa, are entirely matters for the adjudicating consular officer following the visa interview.

Q: I hold an Indian passport. I am working in UK for the past 8 years as a permanent resident. In 2005 my Indian company processed a B1/B2 visa for me that is valid up to 2015. I have never travelled to US as yet. I have changed my company in 2008. Under this circumstance can you please validate my understanding? 1. I can still visit US to visit my son who works there 2. I don't have to carry any additional document other than the visa stamped passport and still it is advisable to carry with me an invitation letter from my son?

A: As long as you have a valid B1/B2 US visa then you do not need to apply for a new visa. Final determination on each individual's eligibility for admission to the United States can only be made by U.S. immigration officials at the Port of Entry.

Q: I heard somewhere that Entry into the USA is forbidden unless you have a return flight pre-booked - Is this something that isn't necessary with a J1-Visa?

A: Individuals traveling to the United States visa free under the terms of the Visa Waiver Program are required to be in possession of a return or onward ticket when they apply for admission at a U.S. Port of Entry. However, visa holders are not required to be in possession of a return ticket when they apply for admission. Furthermore, we advise visa applicants not to purchase tickets or make irrevocable travel plans unless they are in possession of their passport containing a valid U.S. visa appropriate for their purpose of travel.

Q: I've looked at the information regarding non immigrant visas on the London US embassy website and it is not clear whether there is a time period following the expiry of a H3 training visa where one cannot return to the states under a tourist visa.

A: There is no set period of time that you are required to remain outside the U.S. before reapplying for admission to the U.S. However, as with all visitors, you will be required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of U.S. immigration officers at the U.S. Port of Entry that you are a bona fide visitor rather than an intending immigrant.

Q: Can i travel to multiple places in 1 trip if i get a visa, b2?

A: Yes, you can travel to more than one place in the US on a B2 visa.

Q: If an exchange student wishes to take a holiday in the US at the beginning and/or end of their exchange semester, will the study visa cover this?

A: If travelling on a J-1 visa, the student has 30 days following the end of their exchange program to travel within the United States. If travelling on an F-1 visa, the student would have 60 days following the completion of their authorized study period in which to depart the country.

Q: We have a student who is a British passport holder but her family is of Pakastani origin. She is married and her husband resides in Pakistan. She would like to study abroad as an exchange



student in the USA as part of her UK degree, her husband would not be visiting her there. Would she be required to produce any additional documentation when applying for her visa?

A: : Students applying to study abroad in the United States need to bring with them either their DS-2019 or their I-20 and their SEVIS receipt. She will need to demonstrate at the time of the interview that she is a legitimate student, can pay for the exchange and has ties outside of the United States.

Q: My wife and myself along with our 1 year old daughter have to come to attend a visa interview. Can we bring a pram for our daughter along with some baby food, nappies, a pair of clothes to change if needed and baby milk bottles along with us?

A: Yes, you can bring food, nappies, clothes, milk and a pram for your baby. You can also bring toys, as long as they are not electronic.

Q: Hey, I'm an international student wanting to go to the US for traveling during summer, my relatives in the Us would pay for my trip, what sort of documents do they need to provide?

A: If you want to travel as a tourist, information about the B-2 (tourist) visa is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>. If your relatives will finance your trip, you should be prepared to show that they have sufficient funds to support you during the trip.

Q: Hi. Where can I find information for B-2 Visa issuance fees?

A: You can find information on all visa fees on our website here <http://london.usembassy.gov/fee.html>

Q: It only states: "Nationals of certain countries are required to pay an issuance fee in order for an approved visa to be issued. Fees are based on reciprocity and reflect the charges levied by the applicant's government to a U.S. citizen for a similar service."

A: You can use the following link to access the visa reciprocity table which will show any additional fees based on the visa applicant's citizenship.
http://travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3272.html

Q: Is it possible to change the date on a b2 visa if i have not used it?

A: If you have not used a visa issued to you, and it has expired, you will be required to apply for a new visa if you now wish to travel to the United States.

Q: Greetings, I am a Brazilian national and I have a US Visa valid until 2015 on my previous passport. I got married to a British citizen and renewed my passport. Do I need to get a new visa?

A: If the passport in which your visa has been endorsed has expired, the visa in the old passport can still be used provided that you also carry a valid passport of the same nationality. If, however, the passport authority clipped the corners of the passport when canceling your old



passport and, in so doing damaged the visa in any way, that visa is no longer valid and cannot be used for travel to the U.S.

Q: I am a Thai national studying on Tier4 visa in London. My studied will be completed by May. Instead of extending them in the UK I would like to move to the US to continue my studies there. I have a relative there, that will make housing easier as well

A: Information about applying for a student visa can be found on our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/students.html> If you have further questions after reviewing the website, please call the Operator Assisted Information Service (09042-450-100, £1.23/min plus network extras)

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